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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BANGKOK 03838

USCINCPAC ALSO FOR JOHN FINNEY
DOD ALSO FOR OSD/ISA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [CB](#) [TH](#)
SUBJECT: HUN SEN'S VISIT

11. SUMMARY: HUN SEN'S PRECEDENT SETTING VISIT TO BANGKOK REVEALED NO NEW PRK FLEXIBILITY ON THE KEY ASPECTS OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. HE REMAINS OPPOSED TO AND INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE AND TO SIHANOUK'S PROPOSALS. IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM, THE THAI APPARENTLY FOCUSED ON THE EXTERNAL ASPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT (AND BUISNESS DEALS) AFTER BEING REBUFFED WHEN THEY RAISED THE INTERNAL ISSUES. THEY ARE REPORTEDLY READY TO CARRY ON REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WITH HUN SEN AND TO HOST FOUR PARTY KHMER TALKS AFTER JIM 2. END SUMMARY

ARRIVAL

12. PRK PRIME MINISTER HUN SEN ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY MORNING ON A SPECIAL THAI AIR FORCE FLIGHT FROM VIENTIANE. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A 22-MEMBER ENTOURAGE INCLUDING: HIS WIFE; GENERAL TIE BANH, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND DEFENSE MINISTER; KONG SAM-OL, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS; DIT MUNTI, FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; CHAM PRASIT, DEPUTY MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS; AND LONG KEM, PRK AMBASSADOR TO LAOS.

13. HUN SEN WAS ESCORTED ON THE FLIGHT FROM VIENTIANE BY TWO OF PRIME MINISTER CHATCHAI'S ADVISERS -- M.R. SUKHUMPHAN BORIPHAT AND DR. SURAKIAT SATHIRATHAI. ON ARRIVAL HE WAS GREETED AT THE AIRPORT BY PM'S OFFICE MINISTER ANUWAT WATTANAPONGSIRI. THE PM'S SON, KRAISAK, AND THE HEAD OF HIS PRIVATE ADVISORY GROUP, PHANSAK WINYARAT WERE ON HAND TO GREET HIM ON ARRIVAL AT THE HYATT CENTRAL PLAZA HOTEL.

PRESS CONFERENCE

14. AFTER LUNCH, HUN SEN GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE ACCUSED THE THREE RESISTANCE FACTIONS OF BEING INFLEXIBLE AND REITERATED HIS DETERMINATION TO PREVENT POL POT FROM COMING BACK. HE ALSO CONDITIONED HIS SUPPORT FOR A SEPTEMBER WITHDRAWAL OF THE VIETNAMESE FORCES ON A "POLITICAL SOLUTION" BEING "ATTAINED," INCLUDING CESSATION OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE THREE KHMER RESISTANCE GROUPS. HE DID, HOWEVER, OFFER THAT THE PRK WOULD BE SUBJECT TO AN INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE CUT OFF AT THE SAME TIME AS THE OTHER FACTIONS.

15. HUN SEN ENDORSED AN INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION

TO VERIFY THE VIETNAMESE WITHDRAWAL, TO OVERSEE THE CESSATION OF AID AND TO "MONITOR" THE GENERAL ELECTION. HOWEVER, HE REJECTED AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE ARGUING THAT "WE PEOPLE CAN PROTECT OUR OWN PEACE IF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY STOPS SUPPORTING POL POT. IF FOREIGN COUNTRIES STOP SUPPORTING POL POT, I CAN GUARANTEE HE CAN NOT RETURN TO POWER IN KAMPUCHEA."

¶16. HUN SEN ALSO SAID THAT THE PRK HAD ALREADY RELEASED, FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, MORE THAN 200 THAI CAPTURED IN CAMBODIA AND THAT ANOTHER 300 WOULD SOON BE RELEASED. MOST OF THESE PEOPLE WERE ALLEGEDLY FORTUNE-HUNTERS DIGGING GEMSTONES IN WESTERN CAMBODIA.

¶17. ON REFUGEE ISSUES, HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED NATION HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES ON "PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES" FOR REPATRIATING REFUGEES. HE ANTICIPATED DISCUSSING THIS PROBLEM WITH PM CHATCHAI. "WE ARE WILLING TO WELCOME REFUGEES WHO WANT TO GO HOME, IF THAILAND COOPERATES AND AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED."

MEETING AT PM'S RESIDENCE

¶18. FOLLOWING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, HUN SEN PROCEEDED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON TO THE PM'S RESIDENCE FOR TWO HOURS OF TALKS. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SUWIT YOTMANI SAID THAT THE TALKS, WHICH WERE "FRANK AND FRIENDLY," INCLUDED FM SITTHI, RTA CINC GENERAL CHAWALIT AND PM'S SECRETARY GENERAL PANYA SINGSAKDA. ALSO PARTICIPATING FROM THE MFA WERE PERMSEC KASEM, POLITICO-MILITARY COORDINATOR LT GEN CHARAN, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT DG THEP, AND AMBASSADOR AT LARGE SARASIN. MILITARY REPRESENTATION INCLUDED RTA DEPUTY CINC GENERAL WANCHAI, RTA CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL CHARUAY AND SUPREME COMMAND CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL SUNTHON.

¶19. FM SITTHI REPORTEDLY LEFT THE MEETING ONE HOUR BEFORE IT ADJOURNED, AND HE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE SUBSEQUENT DINNER CRUISE.

¶110. REPORTS OF WHAT TRANSPIRED IN THE MEETING ARE SKETCHY, BUT ACCORDING TO "THE NATION," THERE WERE SOME TENSIONS WHEN THAI DELEGATES RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE "MODALITY" OF CONSTITUTING A RECONCILIATION GOVERNMENT. HUN SEN BRIDLED AT THIS, ARGUING IT SHOULD BE LEFT FOR THE FOUR CAMBODIAN FACTIONS TO DISCUSS. CHATCHAI REPORTEDLY DROPPED THE SUBJECT, AND THE TALKS CONTINUED IN A MORE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. FM SITTHI HAD SAID EARLIER THAT THE THAI WOULD NOT "BARGAIN" WITH HUN SEN (OVER INTERNAL ISSUES), BECAUSE "WE ARE NOT KHMERS." IN THE SAME VEIN, GENERAL CHAWALIT SAID THAT THAILAND WILL LEAVE THE KHMERS FACTIONS TO RESOLVE THEIR INTERNAL CONFLICT. BUT HE ADDED THAT THAILAND HAD TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE PEACE PROCESS WHICH MAY STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

¶111. ONE SOURCE SITED IN "THE NATION" CLAIMED THAT BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE GRADUAL REDUCTION OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO THE RIVAL KHMERS FACTIONS WHILE THE VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN. BOTH PROCESSES WOULD BE SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION BY AN INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM YET TO BE ESTABLISHED. OTHER "NATION" SOURCES, HOWEVER, WERE "MORE CAUTIOUS" AND SAID ONLY THAT HUN SEN HAD NOT SOFTENED HIS POSITIONS.

¶112. HUN SEN REPORTEDLY PROPOSED REGULAR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE RTG AND PHNOM PENH. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SUWIT, PM CHATCHAI AGREED TO THIS PROPOSAL. THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THAT PM CHATCHAI "WILL TRY TO DO WHATEVER HE COULD" WITH REGARD TO HUN SEN'S SUGGESTION THAT THAILAND HOST FOUR-PARTY KHMERS PEACE TALKS. HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT HAPPEN UNTIL AFTER JIM 2 IN JAKARTA IN FEBRUARY.

¶113. THAI ARMY TELEVISION COVERAGE HAD HUN SEN SAYING THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT SIHANOUK'S PROPOSALS DEALING WITH A JOINT ARMY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS. HE INSISTED

THAT THE PRK MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO UNTIL AN ELECTION IS
HELD TO DETERMINE WHO WOULD GOVERN THE COUNTRY.

¶14. ONE BANGKOK POST SOURCE SAID THAT HUN SEN REITERATED
MANY OF THE POINTS HE MADE IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT
HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE OPENING OF TRADE LINKS WITH
THAILAND. HUN SEN SAID THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD DO
BUSINESS IN FISHING, LOGGING AND GEMS, RESOURCES WHICH
REMAIN PLENTIFUL IN THE WAR-TORN COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO
ONE ACCOUNT, KONG SAM-OL, HUN SEN'S VICE PRIME MINISTER,
WAS TO HOLD TALKS WITH SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS ON WAYS TO
DEVELOP TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

SOCIALIZING

¶14. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, PM CHATCHAI AND KHUNYING
BOONRUEN HOSTED HUN SEN AND WIFE TO A DINNER CRUISE WHERE
TALKS CONTINUED UNDER TIGHT SECURITY FROM AN ARMADA OF
POLICE BOATS. MFA PERMSEC IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE
INTERNAL ASPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT REMAINED UNRESOLVED. FM
SITTHI DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE SOCIAL EVENT AT ALL.

OPEN ENDED

¶15. PM CHATCHAI AND HUN SEN CONTINUED THEIR TALKS AT A
WORKING BREAKFAST TODAY AT HUN SEN'S HOTEL BEFORE
CHATCHAI DEPARTED FOR THE PHILIPPINES. ACCORDING TO ONE
REPORT, THE PM'S ADVISORS MAY HAVE PERSUADED HUN SEN TO
EXTEND HIS VISIT AN ADDITIONAL DAY AND TO LEAVE FOR PHNOM
PENH TOMORROW, AND ALL ACCOUNTS AGREE THAT HE COULD SO
EXTEND HIS VISIT IF HE WISHED.

O'DONOHUE